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LETTER DATED 2 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF IRAQ TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you herewith a letter dated 2 March 1999 from Mr. Mohammed Said Al-Sahaf, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Iraq. The Minister calls attention to the brutal aggression committed by the United States against Iraqi oil installations on 1 March 1999 that brought a halt to the exportation of Iraqi oil by way of Turkey, caused a loss of resources for use under the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996 in the order of 1 million barrels of oil or 9 million dollars a day and resulted in other human and material losses. He calls upon the Security Council to meet its responsibilities under the Charter of the United Nations, to halt the aggression to which Iraq is being subjected and to consider the question of this act of aggression by the United States against Iraq when it next meets.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Saeed H. HASAN
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

Annex

Letter dated 2 March 1999 from the Minister for Foreign Affairs of Iraq addressed to the President of the Security Council

Further to my letter dated 28 February 1999 addressed to you (S/1999/220, annex), I have to inform you that the United States of America is still persisting in its brutal aggression against Iraq. At 1445 and 1455 hours Iraq local time on 1 March 1999, United States warplanes carried out two raids on a residential complex for the North Oil Company's Ayn Zalah oilfield, which is located 55 kilometres north-west of Mosul.

One resident was killed in this attack and nine were wounded, two of them very seriously. The United States air raids also caused serious damage to oil-related installations and equipment and especially to the pump at the operational control station for the Iraq-Turkey pipeline in the Ayn Zalah area.

The acts of aggression committed by the United States on 28 February and 1 March 1999 have caused serious damage to Iraqi oil installations in the north of the country and have brought a complete halt to the flow of crude oil through the Iraq-Turkey pipeline system. It will be obvious to you that such a stoppage will mean a daily loss of resources for use under the memorandum of understanding of 20 May 1996 between Iraq and the United Nations in the order of 1 million barrels of oil a day, that is to say 9 million dollars for each day the exportation of Iraqi oil is halted, over and above the other enormous human and material losses caused.

The glaring paradox created by the United States aggression is that the aggressors themselves have been insisting that more than one-half of the quantity of oil established under the oil-for-food agreement must be exported by way of the Iraq-Turkey pipeline and that it is they that are now turning their brutal military aggression towards halting the flow of oil through Turkey.

The strikes by United States warplanes against Iraq's oil-related infrastructure carried out in this outlaw fashion and the practices of the representative of the United States in the Security Council Committee established by resolution 661 (1990) aimed at impeding the approval of oil-sector contracts under the memorandum of understanding constitute clear proof that the United States Administration has taken the decision to destroy Iraq's capacity to export oil as a means of promoting a dubious goal that goes beyond the immediate impact of these strikes and aims at suspending implementation of the memorandum of understanding.

This flagrant aggression is to be seen as part of a series of practices in which the Government of the United States of America is engaging against Iraq and which are coordinated with a whole range of hostile and improper measures that it is taking in order to undermine Iraq's security and stability by interfering in its internal affairs.

This aggression also exposes the claims made by officials in the United States Administration that it was they that endeavoured to have the Security

Council adopt its resolution 986 (1995), on the oil-for-food programme, in order to mitigate the suffering of the Iraqi people. This series of United States acts of savage military aggression against Iraqi oil installations confirms the hostile intentions of the United States and its desire to inflict the most grievous possible damage on the people of Iraq.

As it protests against this blatant aggression and condemns it in the strongest terms, the Republic of Iraq asserts that the United States of America bears full international responsibility for this action and for the payment of compensation for the material and human losses it has caused. It calls upon the Security Council to meet the responsibilities entrusted to it under the Charter of the United Nations, as exemplified by the maintenance of international peace and security, and to halt the aggression to which Iraq is being subjected and which poses a grave threat to peace and security in the region and in the world as a whole.

I request you to bring this letter to the attention of all the members of the Security Council and to have the question of this United States aggression against Iraq considered at the Council's next meeting.

(Signed) Mohammed Said AL-SAHAF
Minister for Foreign Affairs
of the Republic of Iraq

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LETTER DATED 1 MARCH 1999 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF ETHIOPIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

On instructions from my Government, I have the honour to transmit to you resolution 01/1999 of the House of People's Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the war of aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia and on Security Council resolution 1227 (1999), issued on 1 March 1999 (see annex).

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Duri MOHAMMED
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Resolution 01/1999 of the House of People's Representatives of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia on the war of aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia and on Security Council resolution 1227 (1999)

Recalling the decision passed by the House on 13 May 1998 on the unprovoked aggression by Eritrea against Ethiopia in which the House resolved, first, that every effort should be exerted peacefully and diplomatically to restore Ethiopia's sovereignty and to regain its territorial integrity, and secondly, should that peaceful effort fail, that the appropriate measures should be taken to ensure the restoration of Ethiopia's dignity, sovereignty and the inviolability of its territorial integrity by whatever means available to the Ethiopian people,

Expressing its deep indignation at the atrocious and unforgivable crime committed by the authorities in Eritrea by invading our country, forcing the diversion of our attention from our major preoccupation of waging war against poverty and having made an effort to poison relations between the peoples of Ethiopia and Eritrea,

Commending the Executive Branch for all the effort, under very difficult circumstances of intransigence by the aggressor and lack of sufficient concern by those who could have done more for peace, to resolve the crisis peacefully and for the goodwill it has demonstrated, reflecting the civility and decency which is the tradition of our people, to cooperate in good faith with all third parties that have made their good offices available to facilitate the peaceful resolution of the crisis,

Commending also the Executive Branch for the necessary preparations it made, parallel with the peace effort, to enhance the capability of the nation for exercising effectively its inherent right to self-defence, should that be necessary,

Expressing its profound satisfaction with the way the Ethiopian people as a whole have responded with admirable resolve to the noble call to defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the country,

Expressing also its deep sadness and anguish at Security Council resolution 1227 (1999) of 10 February 1999, most particularly paragraph 7 thereof, which the Ethiopian people as a whole see as discriminatory injustice and totally inappropriate,

Expressing further its pride in the Organization of African Unity for having stood up for due respect of the principles of international law and for its honesty and transparency, attributes which this crisis has shown so clearly are not available in abundance,

Regretting very deeply that the Security Council made a historic and grave mistake, reminiscent of the injustice done to Ethiopia by the League of Nations, by equating the victim of aggression, Ethiopia, with the aggressor Eritrea,

1. Expresses, on behalf of the people of the Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, its deep anger at the injustice done to Ethiopia by the Security Council through its resolution 1227 (1999), which was unjust and totally inappropriate;

2. Deplores the attempt to deny Ethiopia, the victim of aggression, which in that capacity should, at the minimum, have been accorded the understanding and sympathy of the Security Council, the right to self-defence which is enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations and sanctioned by international law;

3. Affirms, on behalf of the Ethiopian people, that, while Ethiopia shall always be committed, with all the necessary resolve, to principles of international law governing inter-State relations and to the provisions of the Charter of the United Nations, it shall, on the other hand, accept no unfair, unjustified or inappropriate restrictions imposed on its right to self-defence, which all self-respecting nations take for granted;

4. Expresses its dismay, on behalf of Ethiopia, a founding Member of the United Nations, at attempts that have been made that could have a negative impact on the faith and trust that the Ethiopian people have in the United Nations;

5. Appeals to the Security Council to reconsider and redress the injustice done to Ethiopia, a victim of Eritrean aggression, by resolution 1227 (1999);

6. Appeals further to the Security Council to discharge its responsibilities by taking the appropriate measure against the aggressor, who not only has imposed war on Ethiopia through invasion, but has also caused bloodshed and suffering to hundreds of thousands of civilians;

7. Calls on all those who have faith and hope in multilateralism and in the promises held by the United Nations not to allow double standards to reign supreme in decisions adopted by international organizations and to combat partiality in the application of principles of international law;

8. Pays homage to our continental organization, the Organization of African Unity, for having made Africa proud and for upholding and defending principles of international law and norms of civilized behaviour, without which, though the strong may have other recourse, the weak would have no chance of survival and no support for their existence;

9. Applauds the courage and heroism demonstrated by our defence forces to protect and defend the sovereignty and territorial integrity of our country and the patriotic fervour of all our people inside the country and in the diaspora, shown at this critical time for restoring the dignity of the nation and for defending the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ethiopia.